

SAD AND
Dreadful NEWS
FROM
KINGS-STREET
IN
Westminster,
OR
A most Lamentable RELATION of the untimely END
OF THE
Lady PHILLIPS.

Who was found STRANGLED in her Chamber, on the 12th of this instant *November*, giving an Account of all the material Circumstances, attending the Murder of that unfortunate LADY.

SO many are the calamitous disasters of unwary Mortals, that they cannot but trouble a serious mind, to reflect upon the instability of earthly things, and induce Mankind, not to be too far in love with momentary pleasures, which too oft prove vanity, for if we indulge our selves with Worldly matters, and neglect the end for which we were created, no wonder if offended Heaven suffer us to fall into unsuspected Snares, which are too frequently layed by the subtle Tempter, nor are examples wanting in this kind; as appears by many formerly related, but more especially in this which I intend the Subject of these pages, which will unfold as Lamentable a Relation, of the untimely fall of a Person of Quality, as hath for many Ages past been made apparent to the World, the Impartial account of which, as it at present appears being thus.

In *Kings street Westminster*, lately lived the Lady *Phillips*, descended of an Honourable Family, and formerly Married to a worthy Knight, and one of His Majesties Justices of the Peace, &c. but since his decease to one Mr. *Andrew Phillips*, Clerk to a Person of Quality, on whom she infinitely deoted, bringing him an Estate in fee simple and during life, not valued at less than 500 *l. per. annum*; on which, for some time they lived happily, injoying themselves as far as could be perceived, by the most prying eyes, notwithstanding the disproportion of years, the Lady's far exceeding his, but after some continuance of felicity, or at least what seemed no less unhappy misfortune, so ordering some disorders infused, which as far as can be gathered from Report, was occasioned by the unfortunate Lady's refusing to sell a parcel of her Estate, appertaining

ing to her during term of Life; that is, to dispose of it for the time she should live, &c. but whether that or any other matter occasioned the breach so it happened, that Mr. Phillips left her, and following his occasions, came seldom to visit her; which desertion increased her discontents, wherewith she struggled labouring to overcome them, as much as in her lay; but finding her self oppressed with grief, she was many times observed to retire, as is supposed to vent her passion, but in the end by the mediation of Friends, things were in a fair way of Reconciliation, few doubting, but a right understanding would be had, and that former animosities would vanish, the Lady seeming to be much joyed thereat, but as storms succeed the smoothest calms, so here a sad calamity ensued, for Mr. Phillips coming home, and being received with all respect, went after some discourse he had with his Lady, to a Neighbouring Tavern, where they seemed jocund and merry, drinking kindly to each other, and staying there some time, the People of the House rejoicing at to happy a complacency, as then appeared, when it growing somewhat late, they went over to their own House, and continued together a while, as some conjecture, after which Mr. Phillips went abroad on his occasions, leaving his Lady to order her domestick Affairs, but whether she imagined her self again forsaken, and that she was not so well beloved as she ought, or that giving up her thoughts to Melancholy, transported her beyond her self, I dare not determine, but so it fell out, that on the 12th of November 1684. She not appearing about the House as at other times, the Servants went in search of her, but could not for some time imagine where she was retired, till in the end, a Gentlewoman who was a Neighbour, being acquainted with the strange and surprising absence of the Lady, and perhaps suspecting she was not well searched about more narrowly, till in the end coming up three pair of stairs, and finding the door locked, her suspicion of some thing more than ordinary increased, when peeping in at the Key-hole, the fatal Spectacle appeared too plain, whereupon the door being broken open, and Company upon the alarm coming in, the Lady was found Strangled, in a Cord; fastened to the Mantle-tree, or Chimney-piece, kneeling at the same time upon her Knees, or little differing from it, her hands hanging down, and her Head declining not retaining any symptoms of life, nor yet imagined long to have been dead. This unfortunate News soon flying abroad, and the Rumour spreading wide in the Neighbour-hood, Mr. Phillips came acquainted with the sad relation, when hastening home, in much consternation he found what he had heard too sadly verified, when having disposed things in the best manner, the Coroners Inquest on the 14th instant, sat upon the Corps, Mr. Phillips upon suspicion, being then confined in his own House, but having well inquired into the Circumstances, and it appearing he was abroad, when the unhappy accident befell, that a Reconciliation seemed to have been made, and things disposed to the advantage of them both: And further, that it was for his interest, to consult her safely, by reason her Death would deprive him of a considerable part of the Estate, they found it *fello de see* discharging him of the suspicion, upon which, order was taken for the interment of the Corps, and the solemnity performed with much decency, on the Saturday the 15th Instant.

Thus Reader, have I given you a Relation of the unfortunate end of this Lady; who was considerably stricken in years, having spent her Younger Years under the protection of tender Parents, and an indulgent Husband, whose untimely and disastrous end, drew tears from the Eyes of many, who formerly admired her, for her affable temper sober and modest behaviour, and extraordinary conduct in Affairs.

And now, that her Ill-fated fate, may be a means to prevent the like misfortune in others, ought to be the Prayers, and hearty wish of all good Christians, nor is there any better way to avoid the like Ship-wrack, than by laying hold of Christ by Faith, who only is able to frustrate and confound the malice of our implacable adversary, who like a roaring Lion goes about seeking, whom he may devour.

